

## FWS Update *Cosco Busan* oil spill in San Francisco Bay

On November 7, 2007 the cargo vessel *Cosco Busan* hit the San Francisco Bay Bridge in heavy fog. The impact ruptured the hull (~100 ft x 12 ft and 4 ft deep) and spilled approximately 58,000 gallons of medium grade fuel oil. Most of the oil has spread to central San Francisco Bay and outer coast (North and South of the Golden Gate Bridge). The spill is not anticipated to make contact with San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex (NWRC) lands in the South Bay or offshore at the Farallon Islands, although oiled birds have been found at all of the refuges.

Thirty nine Region 8 and Region 1 staff (Sacramento FWO, San Francisco Bay NWRC, Carlsbad FWO, Portland and Sacramento Regional offices and Law Enforcement have been assisting with response and natural resource assessment at various times. Region 8 staff are also working with the National Park Service, the lead Federal Administrative Trustee, and other state and federal agencies to conduct national resources damage assessment activities under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

Due to the small number of oiled live birds recovered over the past 5 days, the Incident Command terminated the formal survey and collection effort Sunday, November 25. Live and dead oiled birds collected by the public or by agency staff can still be taken to pre-designated collection points. The state Oiled Wildlife Care Network will continue to coordinate these collections. Service staff will continue to work with the Incident Command in planning clean up actions.

As of November 25, the following Service resources have been affected. Migratory Birds: 1,591 dead and 1,056 live and taken into rehabilitation; Endangered Species: 3 dead marbled murrelets, 2 live brown pelicans 2 dead brown pelicans and 1 dead western snowy plover and approximately 15-18 lightly oiled plovers.

The US Coast Guard authorization for DOI Bureaus is \$1,684,790 with FWS receiving \$307,522 through December 8. The ship's owner, Regal Stone Limited has tentatively agreed to conduct a cooperative assessment and has provided DOI with \$100,000.

The *Cosco Busan* incident is similar to a spill that occurred 11 years ago. On October 28, 1996, the *Cape Mohican* spilled approximately 40,000 gallons of Intermediate Fuel Oil very near the site of the current spill. According to Service employees who responded during both spills, the "behavior" of the *Cosco Busan* spill is very similar to the previous spill which has helped Contaminants and Refuge staff in planning their response and assessment actions.